

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AGR-05 COME-00

AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

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APPROVED BY S:SECRETARY KISSINGER

E:UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

EB/OFJ:JAPLACKE

AF: NDAVIS

IO:WBBUFFUM

S/S: GSSPRINGSTEEN

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R 182308Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:FAO,UNWFC

SUBJECT:GUINEAN PARTICIPATION IN FIRST WORLD FOOD COUNCIL,
JUNE 23-27, ROME

1. LARGELY BECAUSE OF LDC BICKERING OVER THE COMPETENCE OF
THE SECRETARIAT AND A PROPOSED SET OF RULES OF PROCEDURE,
THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MADE ONLY SCANT
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PROGRESS IN ITS FIRST SESSION. THE COUNCIL, AS EMBASSY WILL
RECALL, WAS THE PRINCIPAL OUTGROWTH OF THE NOVEMBER 1974
WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
STAND MOST TO BENEFIT FROM THIS HIGH LEVEL COORDINATING-

ADVISORY BODY, THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ALMOST COMPLETE LACK OF PROGRESS.

2. IN GENERAL THEY USED COMPLAINTS ABOUT DOCUMENTATION AND THE LACK OF ADEQUATE INTERPRETATION (TO HANDLE CAUCUS GROUPS) AS THE BASIS FOR CALLING FOR THE OUSTER OF WHAT THEY CHARGED WAS AN INCOMPETENT AND UNREPRESENTATIVE SECRETARIAT. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE MAIN FOCUS WAS THE REMOVAL OF DR. JOHN HANNAH (FORMER DIRECTOR OF AID) WHO WAS APPOINTED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL BY UN SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM.

3. ALTHOUGH THE ATTACK ON THE SECRETARIAT AND DR. HANNAH WAS SPEARHEADED BY AMBASSADOR DIOURY OF SENEGAL, MR. M.J.

CAMARA OF GUINEA WAS A CLOSE SECOND TO HIM WITH VEHEMENT AND FREQUENT INTERVENTIONS. AS IN EARLIER FAO SESSIONS, HE WAS OFTEN UNREASONABLE, NOT WELL INFORMED AND CONSISTENTLY DEMANDING.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM THE GOG OF OUR EXTREME DISPLEASURE OVER THE CONDUCT OF MR. CAMARA AND OUR REGRET THAT THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, WHICH HOLDS SO MUCH PROMISE FOR THE DEVELOPING NATIONS, WAS UNABLE TO MOVE AHEAD. WE THINK IT IS UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT MINISTERS TO DEVOTE TIME AND EFFORT TO IMPROVING THE CRITICAL WORLD FOOD SITUATION AND YET BE FACED WITH DISRUPTIVE, ILL-CONCEIVED ACTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. IN OUR VIEW, CONDUCT OF MR. CAMARA WAS PARTICULARLY DEPLORABLE IN VIEW OF CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS LONG EXISTED BETWEEN US AND GUINEA, AS EVIDENCED MOST RECENTLY BY USG POSITIVE RESPONSE TO APPEAL FROM PRESIDENT TOURE FOR DROUGHT RELIEF ASSISTANCE. THE GLOBAL FOOD PROGRAM DEPENDS UPON COOPERATION AND CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRESS. IF THE GOG DELEGATION ACCURATELY REFLECTED THE VIEWPOINT OF ITS GOVERNMENT, USG WOULD CONCLUDE THAT GOG IS NOT INTERESTED IN THE GLOBAL FOOD PROGRAM. IF THIS IS NOT THE CASE, USG BELIEVES IT
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WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR GOG REPRESENTATIVE AT FUTURE MEETINGS TO BE INSTRUCTED ACCORDINGLY IN THE INTEREST OF SOLVING THIS IMPORTANT GLOBAL PROBLEM THROUGH COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT ON APPROACH AND REACTION OF GOG. SIMILAR PROTESTS ARE BEING SENT TO BANGLADESH AND SENEGAL. KISSINGER

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